

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 15-23, 26 and 27 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 12, 15-17, 20, 23 and 26 are amended, and claims 13, 14, 24 and 25 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The amendments do not introduce new matter as they are fully supported by the claims and by the specification. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1-11 have been allowed.


Claims 12, 13, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0105929 to Chen et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Applicants have amended the claims to include allowable subject matter as further explained below.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 14-21 and 25-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As such, Applicants have amended independent claim 12 to include all of the limitations of claims 13 and 14. Claims 15, 17 and 20 have been amended to depend from claim 12. Allowable claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 12. Independent claim 23 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claims 24 and 25, and allowable claim 26 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 23. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are now allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this

application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Kenneth K. Vu, Reg. No. 46,323
Tel. (858) 658-5106

QUALCOMM Incorporated
5775 Morehouse Drive
San Diego, California 92121
Telephone: (858) 651-4125
Facsimile: (858) 658-2502